

Abhivvyakti

हलचल



January to March 2019



हलचल

Means activity!

The last three months of the year are hectic for any organisation, and for us at Ahivyakti it was no different. Apart from fulfilling project goals, Abhivyakti also had to cater to different demands from the large number of NGOs, grassroots organisations, educational Institutions and individuals. Invariably, these demands vary from developing human resources, audio-visual productions, organisational and financial consultancy to counselling. We view these demands as learning opportunities to hone our skills and knowledge so that we are able to function effectively and are able to achieve the goals we set for ourselves.

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



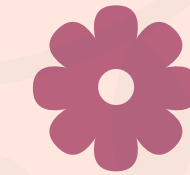
Celebrating Abhivyakti Day

In January this year, Abhivyakti celebrated 32 years of its existence. On the occasion, we invited our long-time associate and veteran journalist, Rakesh Diwan, editor of Sarvodaya Press Service based in Indore to share his experiences and insights from his long career in media and development. Rakesh was with us for few days where he not only spoke of changing media landscape and activism but also spent quality time with our team listening to their experiences and sharing his perspective and insights to guide them. It was meaningful and unique way to celebrate our anniversary.



Strengthening Human Resources

We have been serving the needs of the development sector through our various workshops and training. We bring an update on the various capacity building activities.

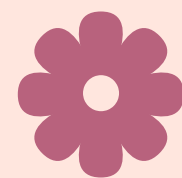


SCRIPT WRITING BY MITALI JOSHI

A five days workshop on Script writing was held in January for aspiring film writers. We had sensed this need during the annual Ankur film festival and tried to fulfil it. We invited experienced script writer, Mitali Joshi to facilitate the workshop. She shared her vast knowledge and experience of script writing with aspiring participants. There were 12 eager learners who too shared their own insights to make the workshop interesting and participative..



We organised two workshops on Panchayat Raj Leadership for elected women representatives from Vidharba and Western Maharashtra. The workshops were held at the Leslie Sawhny Centre, Deolali. The workshops were facilitated jointly by Abhivyakti and RSCD facilitators who shared their knowledge and experiences on leadership, PRI functioning and practical issues in dealing with local governance

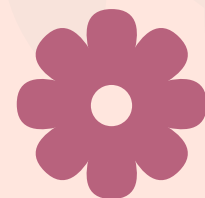


PANCHAYAT RAJ LEADERSHIP FOR ELECTED WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES





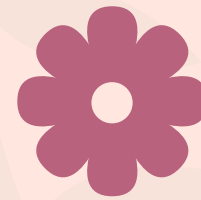
BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS FOR RURAL YOUTH



We also organised and facilitated two workshops on basic computer skills for rural youth of North Maharashtra. One workshop was facilitated exclusively for rural girls who came from neighbouring villages of Nashik, and one was held for rural boys from North Maharashtra. The participants learnt the basic skills of operating computers, emails and internet. Participants expressed a need to practice the skills in their village where access to such facility is non-existent.

WE ALSO RECEIVED REQUESTS FROM A FEW ORGANISATIONS TO FACILITATE WORKSHOPS FOR THEIR TEAM MEMBERS

- We facilitated a day-long workshop for the community researchers of PUKAR in Mumbai in February on understanding Facts and learning to differentiating it from opinions and views. The young researchers shared many interesting insights from their data collection experiences.



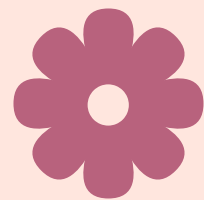
- We also facilitated 3-days workshop on self and team for the functionaries of a project of The Tata Institute of Social Sciences who are working with inmates of a few Jails in Maharashtra. PRAYAS who is a knowledge partner of TISS on this project had invited us to develop strong team bond and self awareness in the participants. The participants shared deep insights of their background, their motivation and problems related to their work. It was interesting learning experience for us to understand the profile of those working with Jail inmates.



- We also worked with the team of LUPIN India who are based in North Maharashtra in developing their training effectiveness. The three-days workshop was held in Dhule.
- A one-day workshop was held for field-level activists of various organisations working in the region of North Maharashtra on media skills especially in using social media to create awareness on critical social issues affecting the marginalised communities.
- A week-long workshop was organised for the Khojis (seekers) of Swaraj University in Abhivyakti office on the issue of self, identity and on the concept of Money. The workshop was interactive and experiential.
- We have also been strengthening the capacities of students from various local colleges. A three days' workshop on self and identity was facilitated for the students of Media course of V N Naik College, Nashik.
- V N Naik college also invited us to facilitate a half-day session on understanding media and its role in deepening learning for the various college teachers affiliated with Pune University. Abhivyakti shared various experiences of media and ways to influence learning.

Empowering Shodhini in Action Research

We have been working with rural girls and engaging them in conducting action research in 10 villages around Nashik. To develop and update their understanding of research we organised two workshops of 4-days each in February and March at the Leslie Sawhny Centre. Girls from ten villages associated with us on the Shodhini project participated with commitment to conduct research on critical social issue affecting girls lives. Sunil Gangawane from PUKAR facilitated both the workshops on the concept of research, critical thinking, developing tools of research and other important elements of empowerment. Girls participated with energy, sharing their own understanding of past research.

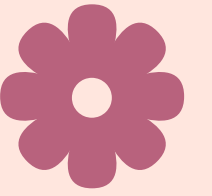
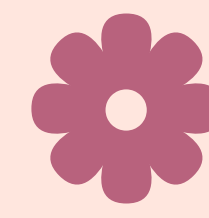


INITIATING NEW COMMUNITY VIDEOS



Our production team started the process of community video. Community video is an intervention strategy initiated by Abhivyakti to deepen community leadership and actions in the project, which is about developing Panchayat Raj Institutions in nearly seventy villages of North Maharashtra. We initiated the process of community video by asking villagers to identify an issue affecting their lives. Some of the issues identified by the villagers were Forest Rights in the Trimbak region, Girls education in the villages of Dindori, Open defecation in Dhule, importance of constructing small Dams in Shahada, and on Ration Shops in Dharangoan. The team visited the locations and helped the community members to develop a working script and shoot accordingly. The process was slow and sometimes frustrating, but team moved ahead with patience and sensitivity. The process of making community video in a few villages is taking shape.

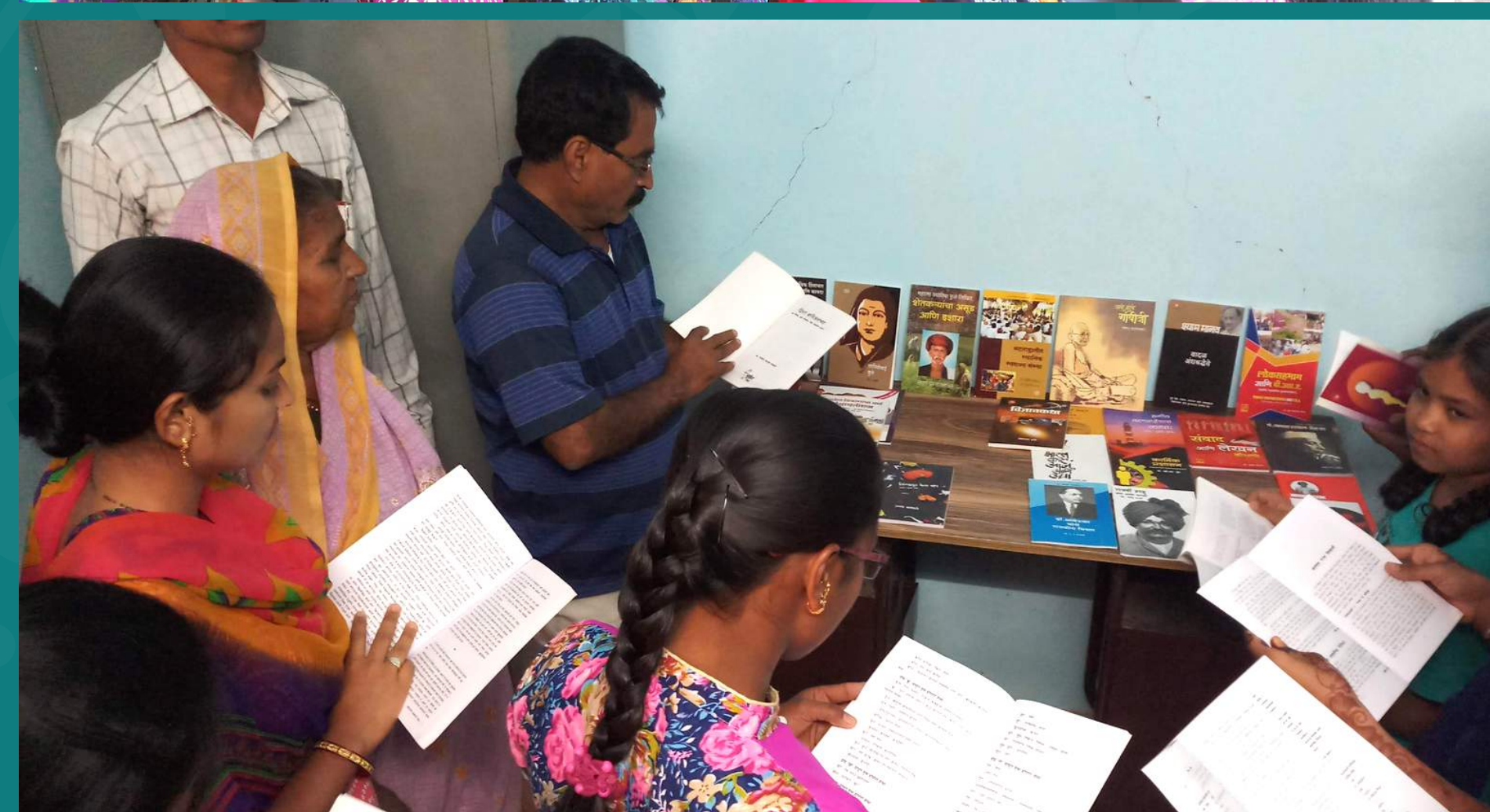




Women's Day celebration



Our production team started the process of community video. Community video is an intervention strategy initiated by Abhivyakti to deepen community leadership and actions in the project, which is about developing Panchayat Raj Institutions in nearly seventy villages of North Maharashtra. We initiated the process of community video by asking villagers to identify an issue affecting their lives. Some of the issues identified by the villagers were Forest Rights in the Trimbak region, Girls education in the villages of Dindori, Open defecation in Dhule, importance of constructing small Dams in Shahada, and on Ration Shops in Dharangoan. The team visited the locations and helped the community members to develop a working script and shoot accordingly. The process was slow and sometimes frustrating, but team moved ahead with patience and sensitivity. The process of making community video in a few villages is taking shape.



Opening of Libraries in Villages

In our efforts to promote reading amongst villagers, we have started opening libraries in a few villages with emphasis on encouraging girls and women to spend time in such spaces and start developing their reading habits. We opened nine libraries in the village of Nashik, Nandurbar and Jalgaon. In one village of Chapri, Nandurbar the Gram Panchayat cooperated by giving a separate room and furniture to keep the books.



Deepening interest in media and development

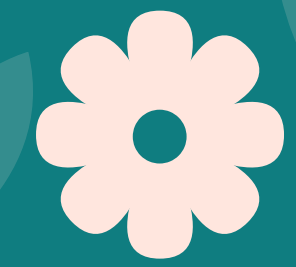
Our efforts to develop capacities of youth in media and development through a year-long course called 'Madhyamdoot' is progressing well. In the three months period, we completed modules on script writing, film appreciation and video shooting. Our emphasis is on developing skills, so focus is on giving practical exercises which the students enjoy. A two days learning journey was also organised in March where we travelled to Mumbai to visit 'Pani Foundation' to learn from their use of media in development and 'Whistling Woods' who teach film making to students. The experience of interacting with the team of these organisations was an eye opener for the Madhyamdoot students.



Happenings



- Kajal participated in a seminar organised by Azad Foundation in Delhi in January on Non-traditional livelihoods for women.
 - Bhila attended the meeting of MAHAVAN network in Nagpur to discuss ways of strengthening the network in Maharashtra.
 - We also organised a half-day meeting of grassroots organisations working in Nashik region to discuss about MAHAVAN network and about issues faced by the organisations working on development.
 - Abhivyakti also facilitated two learning journeys to Coastal region of Maharashtra for the students of Design of MET College of Architecture and College of Design, Nashik with the aim of giving exposure to the students of design on rural culture.
- 



Before we say Goodbye

One of the important aspects of any communication is about the space created for feedback. Especially in an organisational culture. Feedback is a way to know how others are thinking and feeling. Feedback opens doors to new insights and learnings. It acts as a mirror to show us the reality, the other side that we often are afraid to see. Feedback also leads to building powerful relationships and work ethics. However, this important part of the communication process is sadly missing in most organisations and Institutions. For parents, teachers, peers and especially those in authorities it is something they need to create for a healthy society to emerge. Feedback process also needs active listening. It is the foundation of any democracy.

Do NGOs encourage this practice? What are the ways it can be part of our learning culture? What are the new practises that have been followed? What are the results? If you have similar experiences, please share with us at **abhivyakti1987@gmail.com** and do visit our website www.abhivyakti.org.in

