





ABHIVYAKTI हलचल


OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2020



 www.abhivyakti.org.in

 abhivyakti1987@gmail.com

 [/abhivyakti.nasik](https://www.facebook.com/abhivyakti.nasik)

 [/Abhivyaktimedia1987](https://www.youtube.com/Abhivyaktimedia1987)

Even as some normalcy returned after the lockdown, it was still testing time for us at Abhivyakti. While the field activities were beginning to gather momentum, the effect on the communities with whom we work was showing. People were wary, they were hesitant as any visitor from outside brought suspicion and anxiety. This period was also about exploring opportunities and challenges. We participated in many competitive calls for grants and learnt new things of writing proposals. We are happy to share that we embarked on two new projects, one related to creating livelihoods in a tribal block in Nashik, and another, supporting media needs of an organisation working on the issue of water in Amravati.

We are happy to share a few glimpses of our varied activities through yet another edition of Hulchal. Do go through this edition and hopefully it will provide you with an opportunity to dialogue with us.



Celebrating the day of the girl



Abhivyakri
Media for Development

Meeting ID: 777 199 5813
Passcode: SHODHINI
Facebook Live/ Abhivyakti1987

Let us make this year's
International day of the girl - 11th October
an opportunity to hear girls' voices about their lives in pandemic

Join us in the webinar on

**Impact of Covid-19 on the lives
of rural girls and way forward**

11th October
11 am - 1 pm



Shruti Tambe
Head of Sociology Dept.,
Savitribai Phule Pune University



Manisha Gupte
Co-founder Mahila Sarvangin
Utkarsh Mandal - MASUM

My Voice, Our Equal Future



Due to the pandemic, organising a public event like the day of the girl on 11th October was risky, hence we decided to go online. The focus of the online event was the sharing of a small survey conducted by the Shodhini on the impact of Corona on their lives. The experience of the survey, the challenges of contacting girls, organising visits to villages and analysing the data was shared by a few Shodhini. They pointed to the increase in early marriages, hurdles in continuing education and livelihood and the effect on their mental health. The guest of honour, Manisha Gupte from MASUM, Pune and Shruti Tambe, from Pune University spoke at the event sharing their perspective and experiences of working with women. They also appreciated the work done by the Shodhini.

Actions arising from the Covid survey

After the completion of the survey in the villages of Hirdi, Rohile and Boripada on the impact of Covid, Shodhini initiated many activities in the villages starting with creating awareness about the Covid virus. The girls also met the local and government officials and told them about the problems faced by the girls during Covid times. They also created posters on the rise of violence on women, the malpractices in the ration distribution and fake news. The posters were put up in villages and dialogue was held with groups of villagers on a few issues depicted in the posters.



कोविड-१९ च्या परिणामांवर शोधिनी कृती संशोधनातून आलेल्या प्रमुख शिफारसी

१ व्यावसायिक कौशल्य शिक्षण/प्रशिक्षण

आर्थिक दृष्ट्या स्वावलंबी होण्यासाठी रोजगारामिमुख कौशल्य विकास व प्रशिक्षण स्थानिक ठिकाणी उपलब्ध व्हावेत.



२ व्यवसायाच्या संधी उपलब्ध व्हाव्यात

स्थानिक ठिकाणी गावातील मुलींकरिता रोजगार किंवा व्यवसायाच्या संधी उपलब्ध व्हाव्यात.



३ शिक्षणासाठी आर्थिक आणि शैक्षणिक मदत

कोरोना काळात आर्थिक परिस्थिती खालावल्याने ग्रामीण मुलींचे शिक्षण सोयीस्कर व्हावे यासाठी त्यांना आर्थिक तसेच शैक्षणिक मदत मिळावी.



४ ऑनलाईन शिक्षणाची साधने उपलब्ध व्हावीत

कोरोना काळात शाळा महाविद्यालये बंद असल्याने मुलींना शिक्षणाच्या प्रवाहात टिकून राहण्यासाठी ऑनलाईन शिक्षण घेणे शक्य व्हावे म्हणून आवश्यक साधने उपलब्ध व्हावीत.



५ मोफत सॅनीटरी पॅड्स

आर्थिक अडचणीतही मुलींचे आरोग्य सुदृढ रहावे यासाठी मासिक पाळीच्या काळात मुलींकरिता स्थानिक पातळीवर मोफत सॅनीटरी पॅड्स उपलब्ध व्हावेत.

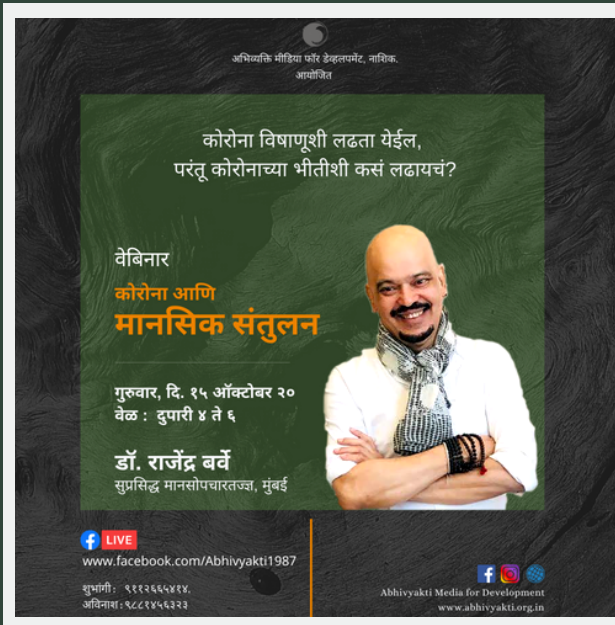


Online Sessions

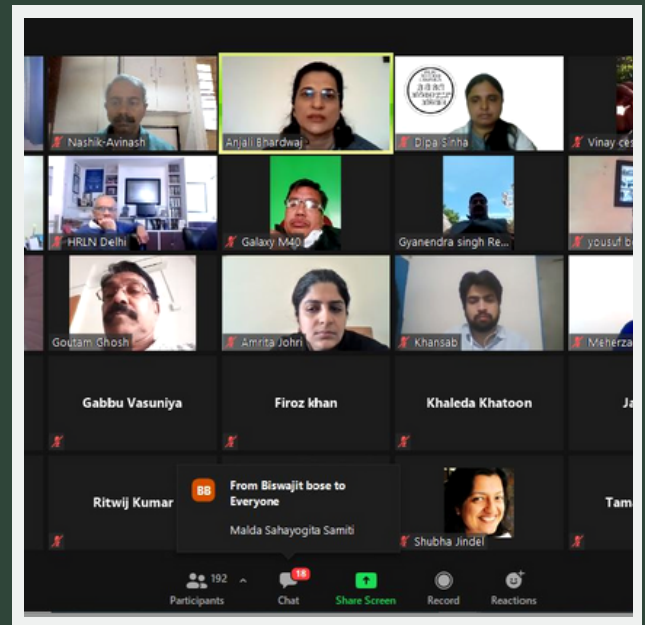
A webinar on masculinity was held on Mens' day in November. The noted social activist and author Ravindra R.P was the main speaker. Ravindra spoke on various aspects of masculinity and its effect on men and society in general. The topic of the webinar 'Men also feel pain' was an apt title for creating awareness.



A webinar on mental health was organised during the mental health week in October. Dr Rajendra Barve, practising psychiatrist from Mumbai spoke on the importance of mental health and mindfulness. He also spoke on the need to prepare and take care of ourselves during the pandemic. More than sixty participants were present during this webinar.



A two weeks online 'Gigatonne Challenge' organised by Complex University for Nashik team was facilitated by Abhivyakti team member in which participants took part in reducing one tonne of CO2 through waste management and other initiatives to save waste going to landfills.



Workshops

The pandemic had brought to our notice the critical need to create awareness on mental health. In collaboration with Atmaprakash Foundation, Indore who work on developing mental health of adolescent girls, a phased capacity building exercise was undertaken. Three sessions were conducted for Shodhini covering different aspects of mental health with the aim of building understanding and ability to notice it in our own selves.



A 4-day workshop for young girls was organised at the Leslie Sawhny Centre, Deolali on different aspects of leadership, use of social media, understanding mental health and creating strategies to raise awareness in villages. There were about 20 young girls who participated enthusiastically to make the workshop meaningful.



A one-day workshop on communication skills and leadership for the field-level functionaries of 'Water for India Trust', Amravati, who are collaborating with Abhivyakti on introducing media in their work on water conservation.

A few orientation workshops were facilitated online for the first year design students of local college on the theme of self-development, working together and leadership.

Strengthening livelihoods in tribal villages

The new project initiated with the support of DS Group, Delhi was about raising the well-being of villagers through supporting local livelihoods. The project based in ten tribal villages of Trimbakeshwar block deals with building entrepreneurial capacities of villagers, starting social enterprises which will raise the economic status and local leadership. Abhivyakti team visited several villages, spoke with Gram Panchayat leaders, local people, womens' groups to know their views and get their ideas of starting social enterprises. The villagers agreed to initiate six social enterprises which include - milk dairy in Kharwal village, making 'Ragi' products in two villages of Berwal and Burudpada, starting Honey Bee project in two villages of Adgaon and Khadakhoal, starting seed bank in Ganeshgaon and Horticulture farming in two villages of Chirapali and Behadpada, and making Phenyl from local Mahua flowers in villages of Boripada and Haathlondhi. The villagers have shown interest and the project promises to enrich the economic and social lives of people in Trimbakeshwar block of Nashik.



Starting Composting Units



Abhivyakti team began the Livelihood project with lots of energy and planning. The first activity to get started was the two beds of Composting Units. The idea of starting with generating our own compost was based on the idea of supplying home-grown organic manure for the horticulture farms being initiated in the two villages of Chirapali and Behadpada. In the two villages, eight composting units were built with the help of local people. We consulted EarthCare Designs Foundation who are designing and implementing the constructing of the composting units. It is expected that initially at least two tons of compost would be generated.

Producing Video films



An animation film on the problem faced by the young rural girls was produced. The film discusses some of the issues faced by the girls like prospects of early marriage, boys-preference by the parents and the work done by 'Shodhini' as community researchers. The film is lively and makes for interesting viewing



The production team also made a film on making a bucket composter which is a useful device for composting at home.

Happenings

- A one-day youth consultation was held in our office to discuss issues faced by the youth. Both urban and rural youth participated in this consultation.
- Abhivyakti senior member also participated in the Board meeting of VSP, Mumbai who also helped in their strategic formulation.
- Similarly, Abhivyakti attended an online strategic consultation meeting organised by Azad Foundation, Delhi.
- Abhivyakti team members took part in different online sessions organised by partners and other social organisations on important themes.





The recent India vs Australia cricket Test series in Australia which India won became known for the leadership provided by its stand-in Captain. The captaincy was talked about for it highlighted a few lesser known virtues of a leader - calm yet leading from the front, focussed on collective efforts, getting the participation of team members in voicing their views, non-aggressive tactics yet courageous approach, backing team members even when they were down, quiet presence and preference to stay in the background, and unwavering goal-focus were some of the qualities on display. It didn't have the usual impressive oratory associated with popular leaders! What do we make of such leadership practices which are different? We come across such exceptional leaders in our everyday life - in family, in organisations, in peer circles and countless other situations where leadership comes with a diverse set of characteristics which are totally different than those associated with popular leaders. Yet, we hardly talk about such leadership practices and count them as leaders. Instead, we continue to glorify typical leadership popularised by media and education systems. Time to rethink and re-imagine our concept of leadership?

What are some of the qualities that you think are critical in a leader? Do you have any experiences of such leadership in your life? Do share so that we continue to learn from our experiences. Pl write to - abhivyakti1987@gmail.com and do visit our website www.abhivyakti.org.in